

1745

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: OKADA et al
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Assistant Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL PRIOR ART DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicant hereby attaches U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including copies of the references listed therein. The references are discussed in the specification. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This Supplemental Prior Art Disclosure Statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

The enclosed Supplemental Prior Art Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to receipt of the first Office Action. Therefore, we believe that there are no fees involved with this Prior Art Disclosure Statement. However, in the event there are any fees payable, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.



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Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 7, 2002 at Tucson, Arizona.

By: Sharon McKniff

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